cept for Santa Croce and the Etruscan Museum), but I felt that everything was there within reach, ready to consult. Almost daily letter to Em.; voluminous correspondence with Claudel; all my time spent at my table and at my piano, hardly going out except for meals and, in the evening, a bit of a spree. What a city Florence is!! Poor Vannicola's decline. Larbaud comes to join me and considerably upsets my work; but so nice! And how interesting his conversation!

Finally, the 16th, putting all my papers in the drawer, I go to meet Gheon at Pisa, bring him back to Florence that same evening (a bed is set up for him in my sitting-room), and for six days we lead an amazing, unrelatable life, of inestimable value — interrupted, just as we were going to set out for Siena and Assisi, etc., by the bad news of Gheon's little niece, which calls him suddenly back to Orsay. I haven't the heart to prolong my trip without him and return at the end of April.

4 June

From 13 May to the 25th, session at the Rouen Assizes.

The value I get from it, to which I had greatly looked forward, goes beyond all hope. *I* have noted this elsewhere.[20]

During the following week in Paris I unfortunately lost the impetus I had brought back with me. At Cuverville for the last four days, my mind flabby and my style utterly flat.

Cuver ville, 7 June

"Fine heads of cabbage, waving their hairy leaves, which look like the ears of great oxen/*

This is what I read in *Trofe Villes saintes,* ^ which I received yesterday.

The *"hairy* leaves'* of cabbage!! Ah! dear M. Baumann, the Virgin must not have had much trouble in appearing to you.

GOSPELS

I consider detestable all moral teachings that are

not dictated by the love of humanity — but I tell you that these counsels are dictated by the love of humanity and that, through the apparent and resolute severity of that voice, I feel stirring a great suffering love, that only the dryness of your hearts, O skeptics and rationalists, prevents you from recognizing.

[20] See *Souvenirs de la Cour dAssises (Recollections of the Assfae Court}*. [A,] This volume was published in 1914.

[21] *Three Holy Cities,* by Emile Baumann, a Catholic novelist.